Concordia University
Faculty of Fine Arts Council
Minutes of the Meeting of February 15, 2002

Present: B. Layne (Chair); K. Austin, I. Bachmann, L. Berezowsky, D. Berthiaume, J.-C. Bustros, M. Corwin, B. Foss, N. Helms, W. Krol, PK Langshaw, Z. Levinson, C. MacKenzie, E.Mongerson, D. Pariser, K. Perry, P. Regimbald, M. Reinhart, C. Russell, E. Saccá, D. Vivian, J.Werner

Absent with apologies:

C. Jackson, P. Cousineau-Levine, H. Johnson, J. Leclerc, S.Panet-Raymond

Guests:

K. Adams, B. Black, J.-P. Duchesne, A. French

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Perry, Mongerson)

"that the agenda for the meeting of February 25, 2002 be approved."

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 23, 2001

The following corrections were made:

pg. 4 He was concerned, however, by what he saw as potential confusion for students between course offerings in sound in the DFAR programme, and course offerings in <u>electroacoustics studies in Music.</u>

MOTION: (Pariser, Regimbald)

"that the minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2001, as amended above, be approved."

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

K. Austin asked if the results of the University Writing Test had been sent, as indicated in the minutes. A. Fairchild had sent them via e-mail to the Chairs in December; they will also be appended to the minutes of February 15, 2002.

M. Corwin had further questions about the funding formula, which he will hold until the next meeting of Council for Dean Jackson's response.

4. Chair's Remarks

B. Layne made the following remarks:

- As Dean Jackson was unavailable, she would be replacing him as Chair.
- She welcomed Associate Dean Brian Foss to his first meeting of Faculty Council, as Associate Dean.
- There are still two vacancies on the Faculty Tribunal Pool; nominations are again requested.
- The DFAR curriculum revisions were approved by University Senate on January 18, 2002.
- Professor Tom Waugh of the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema has been named one of this year's University Research Fellows.
- Irene Whittome, who was a University Research Fellow last year, will be giving her public lecture on February 25th.
- Benoit Morin has been appointed Director of the Office of Research Services.
- Concordia University, as principal institution, and Université du Québec à Montréal have been awarded a Canadian Fund for Innovation grant (CFI) of approximately $22 million. At this point, the following motion was proposed:

MOTION: (Pariser, Bachmann)

"that Fine Arts Faculty Council wishes to thank Lynn Hughes and Barbara Layne, as well as the team of researchers from both institutions, for their work on the CFI application."

CARRIED

- B. Layne thanked Dean Jackson for his leadership and ongoing support for the CFI proposal. She also thanked the participating artists, as well as Joanne Beaudoin of the Office of Research Services, for their contributions.

- A position description for a Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Art, Technology and Culture was circulated to members of Council. Under the CRC programme, Concordia has been given a total of twenty-two positions, one of which has been assigned to Fine Arts. An internal Fine Arts committee developed the position description which, in order to be approved, must align with the University's Research Plan. This plan has identified four areas of research emphasis at Concordia, among them, multimedia and digital technologies. Recruitment for the CRC position will begin shortly. The approval process is lengthy, requiring approval of the candidate by the relevant DPC in accordance with the CUFA Collective Agreement, as well as approval by the CRC programme. It is hoped that the Search will be completed by January 1, 2003.

5. Question Period

K. Austin asked whether there was a university policy on the use of e-mail, as a form of official communication. In response, K. Perry noted that the Negotiating Committee for the CUFA Collective Agreement is reviewing this matter, and that there will be clarification in the new Collective Agreement.

C. MacKenzie asked if there would be another round of CRC Chairs, and whether the categories established under the University Research Plan could be amended. B. Layne will look into the process for amending the Research Plan, and whether the CRC programme is ongoing.

E. Saccá agreed that the University Research Plan needed review. She added that the Plan gives the impression that Concordia is a "technical school", and that there is no reference to the humanities or the arts.

C. MacKenzie asked whether it would be necessary to be a Hexagram member in order to have access to

Hexagram facilities. In response, it was noted by Associate Dean Layne that membership policies are presently under discussion, and will be formalized in the near future.

6. Undergraduate Curriculum Report #76 (FFAC-02-02-15-D1)

MOTION: (Foss, Pariser)

"that Undergraduate Curriculum Report #76 be approved."

Associate Dean B. Foss introduced and summarized the report for Council. The Art Education section reflects changes to their Internship courses, in which specifications relating to community-based programs have become broader, and the actual number of practicum hours spent in teacher-training has been corrected.

In Music, apart from several minor changes, major changes involve the creation of four courses, previously taught as slot courses under Special Topics listings. There were no resource implications to any of the changes. Discussion then followed.

Several members questioned the brevity of the course description for MUSI 265, Rock and Roll and Its Roots, and suggested that it be expanded to include more description of its content. In response, K. Austin noted that it had originally been a two paragraph course description, and that the present version, while brief, was appropriate for a course which is a service course for students outside of the Music department.

B. Foss then noted APC had requested a correction to the pre-requisite for MHIS 315. Rather than stating "second year standing", the University will now standardize this to state: "66 credits or fewer remaining in degree programme." It is believed that this more accurately reflects how the CARL registration system is programmed, though J.-P. Duchesne indicated that this is not exactly the case.

As there was no further discussion, the question was then called and **CARRIED.**

7. Proposal to establish a Chief Research Officer position (FFAC-02-02-15-D2)

B. Layne introduced the proposal, and drew Council's attention, in particular, to the three questions on page 3 which required response.

She described the context for the discussion, as follows. In the early 90's, Concordia had an administrative structure which included a Vice-Rector, Academic, with two Associate Vice-Rectors, assigned to Research and Academic, respectively. At the time of the budget cuts, it was decided to eliminate the positions of Associate Vice-Rector, and to collapse all of these functions into one position known as the Provost and Vice-Rector, Research. The portfolio of the Dean of Graduate Studies was also altered to include responsibility for both Graduate Studies and Research.

In the mid-90's, governments began to increase their funding of research, which resulted in increased activity in this domain. As a result, Concordia requires leadership and representation with the various levels of government, and agencies. Presently, however, Concordia is the only large University that does not have a Senior Administrator solely assigned to represent its research interests. The proposal on the floor calls for the establishment of this type of position. B. Layne concluded by asking Council for a strong message of support in this regard. The floor was then opened to discussion.

C. MacKenzie was pleased to see that a strong mandate in support of research was being proposed, however, she was concerned about the detachment of such a position from the Provost. She was also concerned about the possible disconnection from Graduate Studies. She, therefore, proposed creation of a position that would be known as Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies. The incumbent would be required to work closely with the Provost to ensure that academic needs are at the centre of the picture. The Dean of Graduate Studies would report to the newly proposed Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies, again re-inforcing the vital connection between research and graduate studies, and giving more prominence to Graduate Studies than it presently has. In her opinion, the maintenance of a strong academic connection is necessary to protect against the possible spin off of all research activities towards the industrial world.

E. Saccá described the present dual responsibilities of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research as being unrealistic. Clearly, university-wide responsibility for research is a full time occupation, as is that of being Dean of Graduate Studies. She supported C. MacKenzie's idea, which she found intriguing, and re-affirmed the need for such a position to be academically centred.

D. Pariser asked what the resource implications would be in creating such a position. In response, B. Layne noted that the costs in not doing it, could be greater.

E. Mongerson spoke in support of a vice-rectorial position, which is needed to give Concordia external credibility. B. Foss also voiced his strong support for C. MacKenzie's proposal.

B. Layne then summarized Council's views, in response to the three questions, as follows:

1. Create a position for Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies, and have the Dean of Graduate Studies report to this Vice-Rector.

2. The Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies would report to the Rector.

3. The Vice-Rector, Research and Graduate Studies would be a member of Senate.

This information will be conveyed to Senate.

As a follow up to this discussion, E. Saccá again noted that graduate students are very dependent upon faculty research, and that the present level of graduate research support is inadequate.

Also as a follow up, E. Mongerson asked if the Fine Arts Dean's Office would be re-structured or augmented to take into consideration the expansion of research activities. In response, B. Layne noted that the Strategic Plan for the Faculty had addressed this issue, with increased administrative support being assigned, as financing became available.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
S. McLeod
February 20, 2002

Document attached: University Writing Test Results - December 2001